

Chapter 1.2.1 – General Obligations

CHAPTER 1 . 2 . 1 .

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

Current proposed language:

Article 1.2.1.2.

Responsibilities of the importing country

1. The import requirements included in the *international veterinary certificate* should assure that *commodities* introduced into the *importing country* comply with the national level of protection that it has chosen for animal and human health. *Importing countries* should restrict their requirements to those justified for such level of protection.
2. The *international veterinary certificate* should not include requirements for the exclusion of pathogens or animal diseases which are present within the territory of the *importing country* and are not subject to any *official control programme*. The requirements applying to pathogens or diseases subject to *official control programmes* in a country or zone should not provide a higher level of protection on imports than that provided for the same pathogens or diseases by the measures applied within that country or zone.
3. The *international veterinary certificate* should not include requirements for disease agents or diseases which are not OIE listed, unless the *importing country* has identified the disease agent as presenting a significant risk hazard for that country, after conducting a science based import risk analysis according to the guidelines in Section 1.3.
4. The transmission by the *Veterinary Administration* of certificates or the communication of import requirements to persons other than the *Veterinary Administration* of another country, necessitates that copies of these documents are also sent to the *Veterinary Administration*. This important procedure avoids delays and difficulties which may arise between traders and *Veterinary Administrations* when the authenticity of the certificates or permits is not established.

This information is usually the responsibility of *Veterinary Administrations*. However, it can be the responsibility of *Veterinary Authorities* at the place of origin of the *animals* when it is agreed that the issue of certificates does not require the approval of the *Veterinary Administration*.

Suggested language:

Article 1.2.1.2.

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4. The transmission by the *Veterinary Administration* of certificates or the communication of import requirements to persons other than the *Veterinary Administration* of another country, necessitates that copies of these documents are also sent to the *Veterinary Administration*. This important procedure avoids delays and difficulties which may arise between traders and *Veterinary Administrations* when the authenticity of the certificates or permits is not established.
5. The *importing country* should notify the *exporting Veterinary Administration* prior to implementing any bans or restrictions. In addition, the *importing country* should verify with the *exporting Veterinary Administration* prior to acting on unofficial and/or unconfirmed disease reports in the *exporting country*.
6. The *importing country* should notify all instances where imported stock or commodities fail to comply with agreed import certification requirements to the *exporting country*.

This information is usually the responsibility of *Veterinary Administrations*. However, it can be the responsibility of *Veterinary Authorities* at the place of origin of the *animals* when it is agreed that the issue of certificates does not require the approval of the *Veterinary Administration*.

Rationale: The United States believes that actions taken between importing and exporting countries should be made transparent and communications made clear before restrictive measures are implemented.